




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

### **INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.14 pm): Whilst I have a great deal of respect for the member for Moggill, I have to disagree. The same party that he is hoping to elect challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. They voted against the banning of property developer donations. Despite the recommendations of the CCC, they voted against legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. They have voted against every integrity reform this government has put forward, so it fascinates me that a highly respected medical practitioner like the member for Moggill would make those suggestions. I am certainly quite challenged by what he is suggesting in relation to the party that he would propose govern the great state of Queensland.

I rise to make a contribution to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In 2022 the Palaszczuk government commissioned two significant integrity reports. This bill is the second tranche of legislation responding to Professor Peter Coaldrake's recommendations in his *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions* report. The bill implements some of the recommendations from *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, delivered by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. The Coaldrake report is the product of a review that focused on culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. The report includes recommendations made by Professor Coaldrake as well as a range of other recommendations from former reviews and inquiries aimed at strengthening the integrity and oversight framework in Queensland. Professor Peter Coaldrake released his final report, as we know, on 28 June 2022, and he made 14 recommendations designed to strengthen accountability and integrity mechanisms in the Queensland government.

*Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*, delivered by Mr Kevin Yearbury PSM—known as the Yearbury report—is the result of the five-yearly review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions to assess whether those functions are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently. This report makes recommendations regarding changes to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner. Once implemented, Queensland will have the most transparent and accountable government in this country.

The Coaldrake report recommended that the independence of the Auditor-General be strengthened—extending its scope and according it status as an officer of the parliament, amongst other recommendations. The objectives of this Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 are to do just this: to amend current legislation and to promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

Our state Labor government has a proven track record to address the integrity of our democratic political systems and machinery-of-government structures and procedures to deliver integrity reforms to improve transparency and accountability. We saw that today when the Leader of the House moved a motion to ensure that assistant ministers' diaries are released in a timely manner. In stark contrast, as I mentioned earlier in response to the member for Moggill, to date the LNP has failed to support the

review of our state's integrity and accountability procedures and processes. As I mentioned, they challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. The LNP voted against the banning of property developer donations, despite the recommendations of the CCC. They voted against legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. These are just a few of the integrity reforms that the LNP has challenged or voted against, not to mention they sacked and stood over the CCC chairman. They sacked the CCC parliamentary committee in the dead of the night. They have voted against every integrity measure this Labor government has put forward since they were elected in 2015.

This is a solid track record of blocking integrity reform by the LNP. This continues to be the big question that hangs over the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. Furthermore, the LNP and the member for Broadwater supported the Path to Treaty Bill and then repealed that support for the Path to Treaty Bill. I have worked with children for many years and we talk a lot about integrity. Integrity is about doing the right thing every time—regardless of who is watching, regardless of who is listening, regardless of who is in the room. Integrity is about doing the right thing every time. It is not about what is popular; it is about doing the right thing. I am very interested to see how the LNP will vote as we move to the end of this debate, particularly in light of their history.

I thank those individuals and organisations who have made written submissions on the bill. I also thank the Parliamentary Service staff, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and all those associated with the development of this bill. Queensland will be a better place with greater integrity and greater transparency. I commend this bill to the House.